

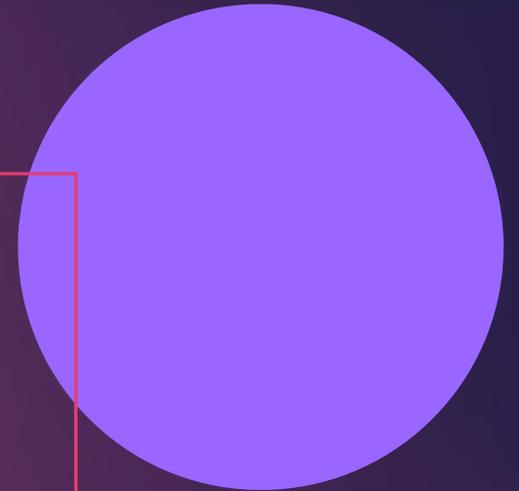
College Prep Schedule

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
10-12	College Admissions 101	How to do an interview	Financial Aid Process in Detail	HEOP. special scholarships, fly-in programs	BEAM college students give advice!
12-1	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1-2pm	Common misconceptions	SAT Subject tests OR Essay workshop	Financial Aid Discussion	ACE Mentor Program & Research colleges	Goals for 11 th grade OR Goals for 12 th grade
2-3pm	Admissions committee (11 th)	Admissions committee	Making a list of colleges	Communication Etiquette	FAQ, Answering your questions
3pm-4pm	OR College app work(12 th)	OR College app work	OR College app work		

The Basics of College Admissions



Why does your
college matter?



Why colleges matter

- ▶ Take more advanced or specialized coursework
- ▶ Graduation rate
- ▶ Access to: research, internships, study abroad
- ▶ Culture
- ▶ Future job prospects
- ▶ Who you meet
- ▶ How good your four years are



BEAM's goal for you

- ▶ Go to a school that pushes you but supports you academically, emotionally, and financially.
- ▶ BEAM's definition of a strong fit college is that:
 - ▶ It must have your desired major OR a variety of STEM majors if you don't know yet.
 - ▶ You must be able to attend taking out no more than \$3k/year in non-govt loans.
 - ▶ Must have at least 60%+ graduation rate for Pell grant recipients.

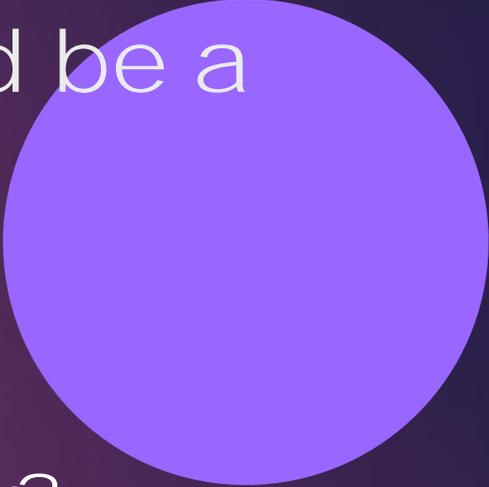
You choose
colleges



Colleges
choose you



If you were in charge of a college admissions office, what do you look for when thinking about who should be a student at your school?

- ▶ Can you handle the classes?
 - ▶ Are you a devoted student?
 - ▶ Will you add to the community?
 - ▶ Will you accomplish things?
 - ▶ Are you a good "fit"?
- 

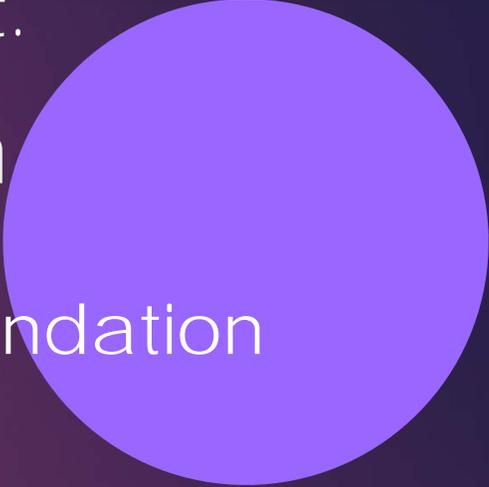
For each of the below questions, brainstorm your ideas for how a college could answer the below questions they ask themselves about an applicant.

What are colleges looking for?

- ▶ Can you handle the classes?
- ▶ Are you a devoted student?
- ▶ Will you add to the community?
- ▶ Will you accomplish things?
- ▶ Are you a good "fit"?

For each of the last questions, brainstorm your ideas for how a college could answer the below questions they ask themselves about an applicant.

Parts of a College Application

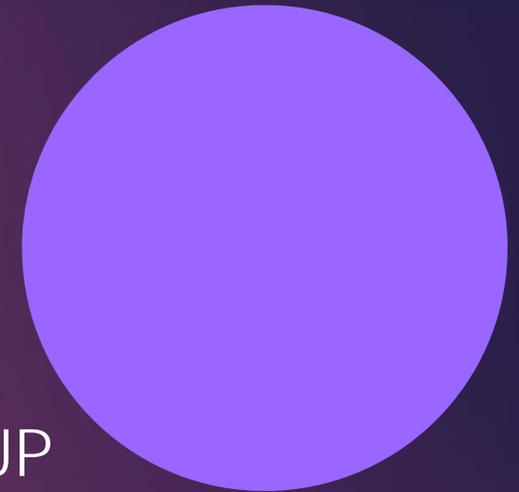
- ▶ Transcript
 - ▶ Test scores (SAT/ACT)
 - ▶ Activities, etc.
 - ▶ Essay
 - ▶ Recommendation letters
 - ▶ Interviews
 - ▶ Audition or Portfolio
 - ▶ Mid-year report
- 

What are colleges looking for?

- ▶ Can you handle the classes?
 - ▶ Classwork taken (have you challenged yourself?)
 - ▶ Work outside of school
 - ▶ Grades
 - ▶ SAT/ACT scores, SAT Subject Tests
 - ▶ Recommendation letters (What kind of student are you? What do you bring to the classroom?)
 - ▶ Counselor Recommendation (What kind of community member are you? How do you shape the school?)
- 

What are colleges looking for?

- ▶ Are you a devoted student?
 - ▶ Recommendation letters
 - ▶ Work outside of school
 - ▶ Independent reading/study
 - ▶ Upward trajectory – Grades going UP
 - ▶ Added rigor as you grow into older grade level
 - ▶ Interview



What are colleges looking for?

- ▶ Will you add to the community?
 - ▶ Activities, volunteering
 - ▶ Counselor Recommendation letters
 - ▶ Personal essay
 - ▶ Interview



What are colleges looking for?

- ▶ Will you accomplish things?
 - ▶ What have you done? (For example, leadership roles, research projects, etc.)
 - ▶ Personal essay
 - ▶ Recommendation letters
 - ▶ Interviews



What are colleges looking for?

- ▶ Are you a good "fit"?
- ▶ Personal essay
- ▶ Interview
- ▶ Activities, etc.



Colleges also look at your personal story and circumstances



The parts of a college application

Sent by you

Basic info

Activities, volunteering,
jobs, leadership roles

Personal essay(s)

You ask others to send

Transcript/grades [school]

SAT/ACT test scores [testing
agency]

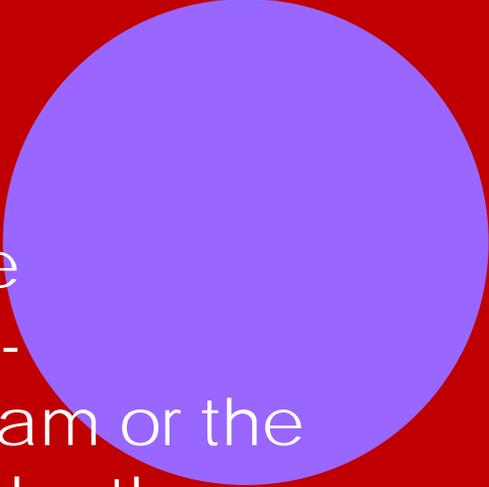
Recommendation letters
[teachers, other adults]

Financial Aid applications (more on this later)

Finances of the family you live with

Often, also the finances of parents *even if you
don't live with them!*

Common mistake alert!

- ▶ Meet deadlines!
 - ▶ While sometimes colleges may be forgiving, you can't rely on that --- sometimes all the spots in a program or the money for financial aid are gone by the time you submit.
 - ▶ Rolling deadlines are first come, first serve.
- 

Common mistake alert!

- ▶ YOU MUST CHECK E-MAIL!
 - ▶ Most colleges will send important information by email
 - ▶ For example:
 - ▶ "One part of your application is missing."
 - ▶ "We want to consider you for a special scholarship."
 - ▶ "We can't give you a financial aid offer until we have all of your information."



Deadlines

Ask for
recommendations



Most applications
due



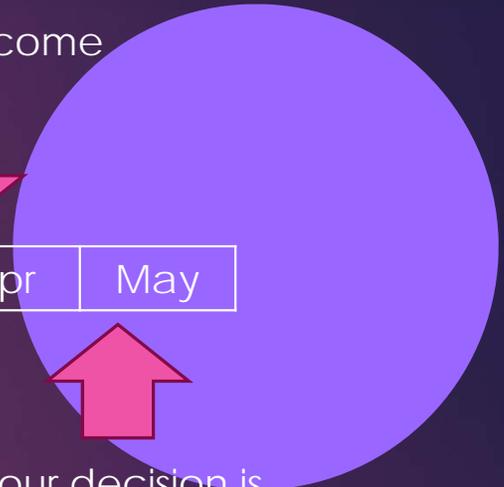
Tests must be
done



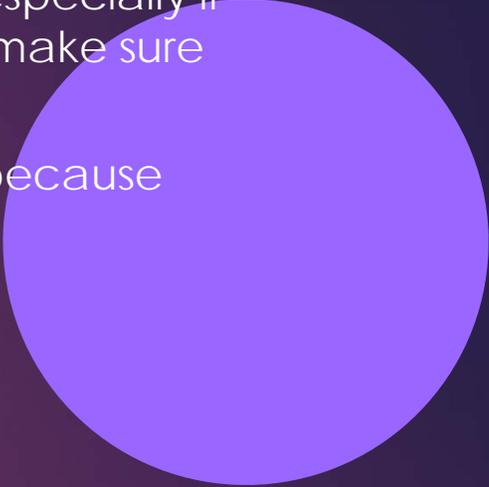
Decisions come
out



Your decision is
due



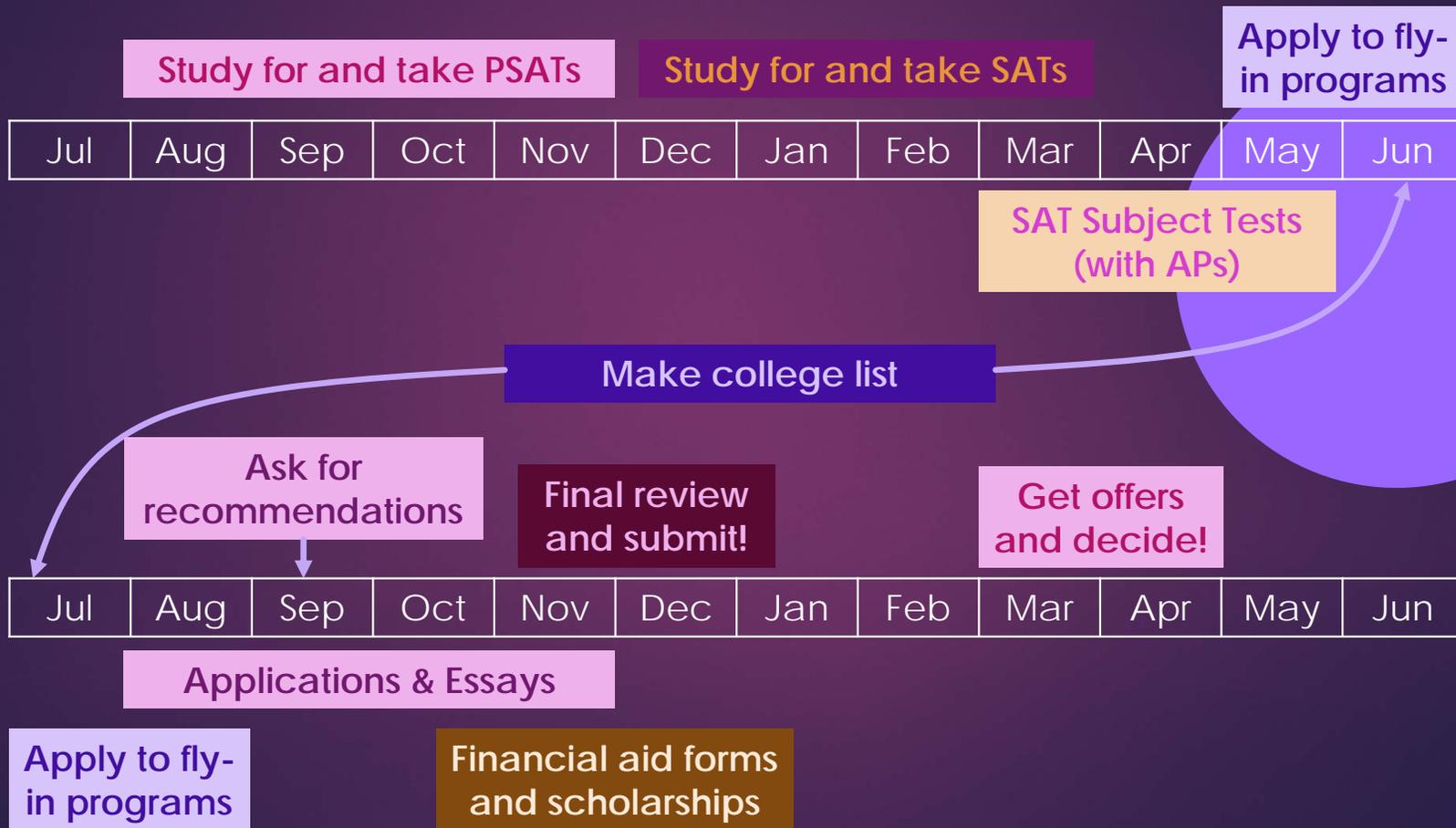
ACT and SAT dates

- ▶ Usually you have to register about a month in advance, especially if you want to test a particular testing site --- look this up to make sure you're definitely doing this way in advance!
 - ▶ ACT is offered (signing up early is especially vital for ACT because they have less testing sites in NYC):
 - ▶ Late October, Early December
 - ▶ April and June
 - ▶ Early September
 - ▶ SAT is offered:
 - ▶ Early October, November, December
 - ▶ March, May, and June
 - ▶ Late August
- 

A real schedule

11th Grade

12th Grade



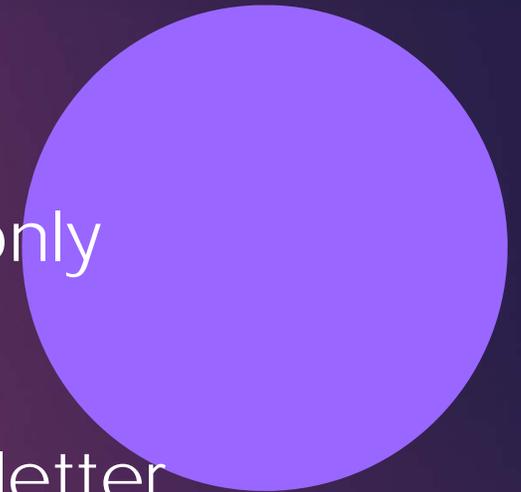
Financial Aid Quick Summary

- ▶ Need-based vs. merit-based
 - ▶ Different colleges have *really different* financial aid profiles – what approach they take to giving scholarships and other help to students
 - ▶ Need-blind admissions
- 

Applying for Financial Aid

- ▶ Fill out the FAFSA (Federal)
- ▶ Fill out the TAP (New York State)
- ▶ Maybe also fill out the CSS Profile (only some colleges require it)

You will then get a financial aid award letter (package) from each school, which will tell you how much free money you were awarded, how much you may need to borrow, and how much you may need to work.



Common mistake alert!

- ▶ Apply to colleges that will give you good financial aid.
- ▶ Some colleges commit to always giving someone the financial aid they need. This is called *100% need met schools*.
 - ▶ Some schools aren't 100% need met but close. Ex: Carnegie Mellon is 99% need met.
- ▶ Check this for every single school you apply to!!!

Questions?

